



MAY - 9 2019

Administrator

Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Azar regarding the status of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) federal Medicaid funding for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf. We understand your concern that federal funding for FY 2019 has been exhausted and the potential impact this funding situation may have on CNMI's Medicaid program and beneficiaries.

I am pleased to report that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finalized CNMI's grant awards for Medicaid expenditures for FY 2012 – FY 2015. After reconciling actual expenditures with money advanced to CNMI for these fiscal years, CMS has awarded CNMI several reconciling grant awards for FY 2012 – 2015 and a supplemental grant award for FY 2019. The net total in federal funds for these fiscal years now available to CNMI for its Medicaid program is \$8,249,552.

Your letter proposes that we reconsider the allocation of funding made available under section 1323 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148) by redistributing funds unused by other territories to CNMI. Our team is currently examining the feasibility of your proposal and will provide more information to you as it becomes available. In the meantime, I urge you to continue to work with Congress on this funding issue.

CMS continues to be available to you and CNMI for technical assistance regarding the Commonwealth's Medicaid program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation at (202) 690-5500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Seema Verma", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being prominent.

Seema Verma